Men's Basketball drops final two games of regular season

By BRAD HOLZWART
CRUSADER SPORTS STAFF

The Men's Basketball squad ended its six game win streak this past week with a non-conference loss to Boston University by a score of 60-51, and a heartbreaking defeat in the Patriot League to rival Army by a count of 78-75.

The 12-13 Terriers were ungracious hosts to the Crusaders as Holy Cross traveled to BU on Feb. 20. The Cross got off to a slow start as they watched the Terriers open the match up with a 19-5 run. After being down by a mere point, Holy Cross was suddenly the victim of a 14 point second half comeback in the first half that included shooting 55 percent from the floor; however, the half was summed up as the Crusaders watched BU out rebound them 23-11. To add insult to injury, the Crusaders managed to shoot a dismal 1-7 from the charity stripe.

The second half saw a more rejuvenated and aggressive Holy Cross team. An offensive onslaught turned the game around with a late offensive surge culminating in a 25-11 Holy Cross run. The offensive action led to a defensive reaction as the 'Saders tightened up, holding BU to a mere 11 points over the first 15:36 of the second half. Senior Jared Curry sank two key free throws to give his team a 56-55 advantage. Holy Cross thrived on this momentum, and extended their lead to five as Sankes and Meade hitched back-to-back field goals. Army was not phased, however, as they retaliated with a three pointer and a Dex Pearson three point play.

The see-saw battle continued with the end of regulation looming. Sankes' huge night culminated with a clutch basket with 2:37 remaining putting the Crusaders back on top, 75-74. Unfortunately, this would be the final basket for Holy Cross on the night. With 2:10 remaining, the Black Knights drained two free throws to put themselves up one. Both teams traded possessions, each coming up empty handed.

The final 12 seconds proved to be the game's most pivotal. After collecting a rebound, Serravalle marched down court only to be whistled for charging with four seconds remaining. On the ensuing in-bound pass, Army's Pearson broke away down court and put an exclamation point on the Army upset with two seconds left. In a final effort to steal the game away, Meade heaved the ball from mid-court only to have it bounce off the back of the rim.

The 78-75 defeat upset Holy Cross' losing streak to two, its longest of the season. The team was lead by Sankes who scored a game high 23 points and hauled in ten rebounds, his 13th double-double of the year. Juan Pegues, Brian Wilson, and Curry each contributed ten points. The Crusader defense struggled to contain the Black Knights' Chris Spatola and Pearson who did most of the damage, combining for 38 points on the night, including five apeces in Army's game-ending 12-4 run.

The two game skid has no bearing on the team's playoff standing. They merely drop to 29-7 on the year and 10-2 in the Patriot League. The 'Saders will enter the Patriot League tournament, being held at Navy, as the number one seed and a much deserved first round bye. Holy Cross will return to action on Sunday, March 4 against either number four, LeHigh or Army.

hopes to regain some much needed momentum in the Patriot League. The 3-9 Black Knights sat at seventh place in the Patriot League. They didn't show it, however, in the first half as they found themselves up at its conclusion, 44-40. Army was aided by superb free throw shooting, converting 16-18 from the line.

It wasn't until 13:04 of the second half that Holy Cross was able to regain the lead they hadn't seen since 8:18 of the first half. Senior Jared Curry sank two key free throws to give his team a 56-55 advantage. Holy Cross thrived on this momentum, and extended their lead to five as Sankes and Meade netted back-to-back field goals. Army was not phased, however, as they retaliated with a three pointer and a Dex Pearson three point play.

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